

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A system for accessing an anatomic space having a wall with an outer surface, said system comprising:

an access tube having a distal end which can be selectively embedded into tissue for engagement with the outer surface engaged at an outer side of the wall;

a penetrating structure disposed at the distal end of the access tube, the penetrating structure which can penetrate the outer side of the wall and through an inner side of wall, the penetrating structure can engage the inner side of the wall, such that [[the]] proximal movement of the distal end of the access tube causes corresponding enlargement of the anatomic space; and

a needle having a lumen therethrough, said needle being configured to pass through the access tube and penetrate into the anatomic space when the access tube is embedded into engaged with the outer side of the wall of the anatomic space [[wall]] and when the penetrating structure is engaged with the inner side of the wall of the anatomic space.

17. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 16, wherein the access tube includes the penetrating structure comprises an anchor structure at [[its]] the distal end of the access tube.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 17, wherein the anchor structure comprises one or more penetrating points.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 18, wherein the penetrating points are inclined so that they penetrate into tissue when the access tube is rotated about its long axis.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a guidewire configured to be positioned into the anatomic space through the needle.

21. (Currently Amended) A kit for accessing the pericardial space between the visceral and parietal pericardium, said kit comprising:

an access tube having a distal end which can be selectively embedded into tissue engaged at an outer side of the parietal pericardium;

a penetrating structure disposed at the distal end of the access tube, the penetrating structure which can penetrate the outer side of the parietal pericardium and through an inner side of the parietal pericardium, the penetrating structure can engage the inner side of the parietal pericardium; and

instructions for use setting forth a method for accessing an anatomic space having a wall ~~with an outer surface~~, said method comprising:

engaging a distal end of an access tube to an outer side of the wall;

embedding a distal end of an access tube a penetrating structure disposed at the distal end of the access tube into the outer surface the outer side of the wall and through an inner side of the wall;

drawing the access tube proximally to raise the wall over the anatomic space and to enlarge the anatomic space; and

introducing an access device through the access tube, penetrating the wall and into the anatomic space while the access tube stabilizes the wall.

22. (New) A system as in claim 16, wherein the penetrating structure is engaged with the inner side of the wall so as to be engaged underneath the wall.

23. (New) A system for accessing the pericardial space between the visceral and parietal pericardium, said system comprising:

an access tube having a distal end which can be selectively engaged at an outer side of the parietal pericardium;

a penetrating structure disposed at the distal end of the access tube, the penetrating structure which can penetrate the outer side of the parietal pericardium and through an inner side of the parietal pericardium, the penetrating structure can engage the inner side of the parietal pericardium, such that proximal movement of the distal end of the access tube causes corresponding enlargement of the anatomic space; and

a needle having a lumen therethrough, said needle being configured to pass through the access tube and penetrate into the pericardial space when the access tube is engaged with the outer side of the parietal pericardium and when the penetrating structure is engaged with the inner side of the parietal pericardium.